

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council Meeting – October 15, 2019

“Old” Bradford High School gets new life serving younger demographic

The Town of BWG has entered into an agreement for the conditional sale of the old Bradford High School to Eh to Zed Preschool Canada Ltd. Eh to Zed preschools across southern Ontario offer all-day daycare and educational programming for children from infants to preschoolers, including specialized services such as speech pathology and autism support.

The Town purchased the vacant property at 27 Queen Street from the Simcoe County District School Board in 2016 to ensure the important heritage building would continue to be enjoyed by many more generations. Built in 1923, the building is designated for protection under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, so any changes to the building’s façade are subject to Town of BWG Council approval.

Public input sought into updated building permit fees

Municipalities charge fees for issuing building permits and, under provincial legislation, these fees must cover all costs related to the Building Division including staff, facilities and equipment.

The Town’s building permit fees have not been significantly updated since 2005 and there have been no adjustments for inflation. Revised fees are being proposed based on the actual cost and effort required to issue permits, and will bring fees more in line with comparable municipalities. To ensure transparency, a complete list of revised fees will be presented during a Public Meeting at the November 19 Council meeting, and public feedback will be welcomed.

Funds approved for downtown improvements

Council approved two applications for Downtown Community Improvement Plan grants: \$3,589 to 27 Holland Street East (Art Studio Tattoos) for upgrades to the façade and signage, and \$17,345 to 95-105 Holland Street West (Baccilieri Plaza) to improve drainage in the front parking lot and add an accessible parking spot and sidewalk ramp.

Signal lights to be installed at Line 8 and Sideroad 10

Council authorized staff to enter into a single source procurement for the signalization of the Side Road 10 and Line 8 intersection, to a limit of \$60,000. This work will include widening the road to accommodate left turns from Sideroad 10 to Line 8. This method of procurement was approved after a tender for the work put out in September did not attract any bids.

Town will pursue heritage designation for Fisher’s Corner School

Council carried a recommendation by the Heritage Committee to begin the heritage designation process for the property at 3769 Line 9, also known as Fisher’s Corner School. The one-storey brick schoolhouse was built in 1877 and the exterior is still largely original including a bell tower. The building was converted into a single family home and is privately owned and currently vacant.



Statutory Public Meeting

Two public meetings took place at the October 15 Council meeting.

The first meeting was regarding an application for Zoning By-law Amendment submitted by Thorstone Consulting Services c/o Dan Stone on behalf of Steve and Michelle Faris for the property municipally known as 4292 Line 3 (File No. D14-19-11). The property is designated as “Agricultural” in the Town’s 2002 Official Plan. The Applicant proposes a site-specific zoning to permit the establishment of an apple cider production and canning facility (cidery) with accessory retail uses as an on-farm diversified use on the subject property while preserving the agricultural use permissions.

The second meeting was regarding an application for Zoning By-law Amendment submitted on behalf of Mod-Aire Homes Limited and Michael Orsi for two blocks along West Park Avenue, between Holland Street West and Miller Park Avenue (File No. D14-19-10). Currently both properties are zoned “Institutional Exception Holding” [I*1(H1)] and the only permitted use is a “Retirement Home.” The Applicants are proposing to add “Building, Apartment” to the list of permitted uses for the subject properties.

If any member of the public would like to share a comment or receive notice of future council meetings where these applications will be considered, please send an email to: planninginfo@townofbwg.com and specify the application(s) you are interested in.

Council approved all Committee of the Whole decisions from October 1, 2019.

Committee of the Whole

Please note that decisions made in Committee of the Whole are not final until approved at a subsequent Regular Council meeting.

Making progress on the Sandstorm subdivision at Holland and Langford

The Committee of the Whole supported approving a proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision and all the associated amendments to the Zoning By-law and Official Plan required to proceed with the Sandstorm subdivision north of Holland Street West and east of Langford Boulevard.

The subject lands are currently vacant and are located between the existing Great Gulf residential subdivision to the north and the Food Basics commercial development to the south. The plan includes a mix of single detached and semi-detached houses, back-to-back townhouses, a high-density residential block and a seniors' housing block.

Ensuring safety on laneways in older Bradford neighbourhoods

The Town has a number of narrow laneways in the older Bradford urban area, some of which are difficult to maintain and are increasingly becoming liability risks. The Committee of the Whole agreed that staff should look at each of these to determine what changes might help improve safety and the condition of the laneways, such as reducing speed limits, restricting or prohibiting vehicle access, or reclassifying so that a more appropriate level of service can be established.

A public open house will be held at a later date to advise the public of the proposed changes and seek input.

Announcements:

- **Meet the Candidates** – *Bradford & District Memorial Community Center (125 Simcoe Rd.)*
Wednesday, October 16, 7 p.m.: The Bradford Board Of Trade is hosting an all-candidates panel ahead of the October 21st federal election. To register to attend, or to submit a question, go to bwgcandidates.bradfordboardoftrade.com
- **Small Business Week Seminar: Recruitment and Retention** – *Club at Bond Head (4805 Line 7)*
Thursday, October 17, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: Share information, network and develop action plans for talent recruitment and retention. This event is free and includes lunch. Contact robin@nottawasaga.com to register.
- **Pumpkin Fest** – *Henderson Memorial Park (3171 Line 9)*
Saturday, October 19, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: Celebrate fall with the Town of BWG's 3rd Annual Pumpkin Fest featuring face painting, pumpkin carving, entertainment and more. Bradford Farmer's Market vendors will be set up for a special end-of-season market. For more details visit: www.townofbwg.com/pumpkinfest
- **A Fireside Chat: Newton Robinson Remembered** – *Tec-We-Gwill Hall (4380 Line 10)*
Monday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.: The Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society welcomes you to take a walk down memory lane and delve into the history of Newton Robinson and the surrounding area.
- **Spooktacular!** – *BWG Public Library (425 Holland St. W)*
Saturday, October 26, 11 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: "Spooktacular!" is a Family Saturday event at the Library. Join in for games, crafts, a scavenger hunt and all things spooky to celebrate the Halloween season!
- **Curbside Treasure Hunt Days** – *across BWG*
Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27: Residents are invited to place unwanted, gently used items at the curb for others to take for their own use, free of charge. For details visit www.townofbwg.com/TreasureHunt
- **My Life in Iran speaking series** – *Tec-We-Gwill Hall (4380 Line 10)*
Monday, October 28 and Monday, November 25, 1:00p.m.-2:30p.m.: The Tec-We-Gwill Women's Institute presents a two-part series with speaker Mitra Malezadeh. Hear Mitra's story of growing up in Iran, the kidnapping of her son by his father and her journey to Canada to find him. Both men and women are welcome to attend this FREE event.

For the complete Town of BWG Community Events Calendar, go to:

www.townofbwg.com/events